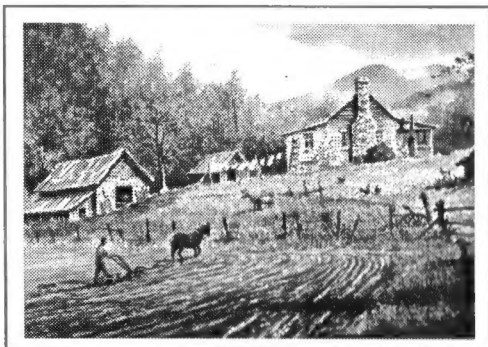


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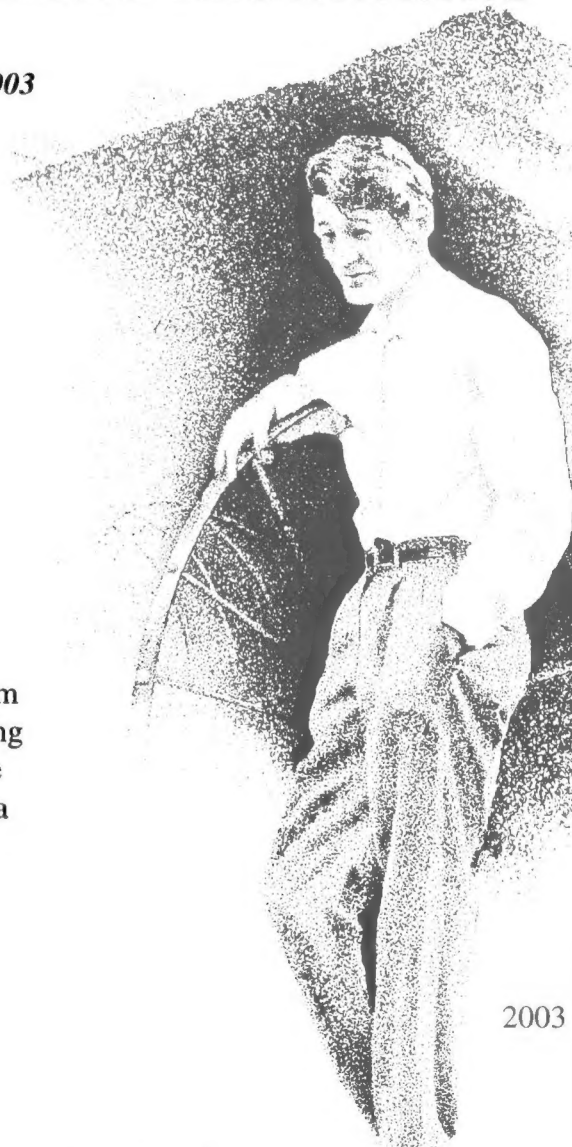
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The Society is a non-profit organization and all or part of your contribution may be Tax-Deductible.

*The Reach of Song
&
The Far Blue Mountains*

June 20 - August 14, 2003

Hilda Glenn Auditorium
Clegg Fine Arts Building
Young Harris College
Young Harris, Georgia



2003

Produced by
The Appalachian Educational and Historical Society, Inc.



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The Reach of Song
By Tom DeTitta

The Reach of Song is a carefully wrought chronicle of life as it used to be and still is today in the hills and hollows of southern Appalachia – a place where time once ran still and the mountain streams run chill and cold.

It is the story of the culture of a hardy generous folk; and of the changes brought from the outside world that altered their culture that had been handed down virtually unchanged for generations.

The two-act drama, which begins and ends in the present-day, is told through the eyes of north Georgia writer Byron Herbert Reece, a Pulitzer Prize nominee, who was born, lived and died just a few miles from the theater in which the drama is staged.

The first act deals with Appalachia as it was before World War II, with a way of life that had been handed down for hundreds of years in the hills and hollows.

In Act Two, the focus shifts to the changes in the lifestyle of the mountain people brought on by World War II and the effects of the outside world's invading culture. It embodies the memories and insights of those natives who are part of *The Reach of Song* cast.

From the whirl and gaiety of mountain music and dancing, to the wisdom, gossip and age-old battle of the sexes meted out from the whittler's bench and the quilting bee. *The Reach of Song* is Appalachian life as it was and is—preserved as clearly as jam in a Mason jar.

Artistic Staff The Reach of Song

Playwright	Tom DeTitta
Artistic Director	Sharon Albert
Musical Director	Victoria Lee
Lighting Designer	Philip Albert
Choreographer	Victoria Lee
Set Designer	Dr. W. Joseph Stell

Production Staff

Production Stage Manager	Philip Albert
Assistant to the Stage Manager	George Ramsey
Assistant to the Stage Manager	Miranda Pritchard
Assistant to the Stage Manager	T. Allen Thomas

Cast

K. Ken Johnston	Byron Herbert Reece
Crystal Waters	Bernice
T. Allen Thomas	Harry
Larry Tobias	Larry
Michael Blackmon	Al
Courtney Cunningham	Susie Mae
George Ramsey	Zack
Hazel Farmer	Maybelle
Miranda Pritchard	Annabelle
Adriane Howard	Robin
Alex Walters	Clarence
Nikki Carson	Sara Anne
Joyce McManious	Emma Reece
J.D. Robinson	Ledford/Ensemble
Janice Minette	Scholar/Ensemble
Nell Todd Brown	Nell
Elsie Hughes Nelson	Elsie
Furman Lunsford	REA Man/Ensemble
Micah "Magic Spoons" Robinson	Doctor/Ensemble

The 2003 Reach of Song Band

J.D. Robinson	Fiddle, Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo, Saw, Bandleader
Roberta Voyles Lunsford	Banjo
Furman Lunsford	Guitar
Larry Tobias	Bass, Dulcimer, Guitar
Micah "Magic Spoons" Robinson	Percussion

MUSIC - The Reach of Song

Act I

Shady Grove
In That Mornin'
*Tammy's Waltz**
*Maggie Brown's Favorite Jig**
*Fire Storm**
Wondrous Love
*Heather's Trip to Murphy**
Brethren, We Have Met to Worship
Just a Little Talk With Jesus
Amazing Grace
Travelin' On
I Will Arise
Farewell Brethren

Act II

*John Henry**
Wayfaring Stranger
Some Day
*Going Home to Georgia**
*Sally Goodin**
Eat That Dog Food
*Sweet Georgia Brown**
*In the Mood**
Weaver's Song
Lullaby
Traveling Creature
In The Pines
*Whiskey 'Fore Breakfast**
**instrumental*

All underscoring &
incidental music arranged
by J.D. Robinson

Playbill produced by
The Appalachian Educational
and Historical Society, Inc.

The Reach of Song Executive & Box Office Staff
Philip Albert Executive Director
John William Wolf Marketing Director
Kiley Mitcham Box Office Manager
Brian Miller Box Office
Ilana DeBlasi Box Office

PLEASE

We ask that no photographs or
other recording devices be used
during the performance.
Thank you for your cooperation.

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FILL OUT A SURVEY CARD

It is most helpful if we know
where our audience base is from,
how long they're staying in the
area, and your opinion about the
drama.

Please take a moment to fill
out the survey cards located in
the lobby.



BYRON HERBERT REECE

*I took my fiddle
That sings and cries
To a hill in the middle
Of Paradise...*

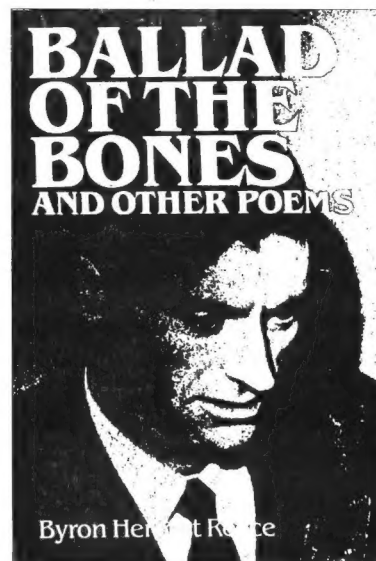
So Byron Herbert Reece begins his poem entitled *Mountain Fiddler*. This poem evokes the essence of the poems and novels of this Union County writer who died in 1958. His work contains the images and sounds that call through the hills of north Georgia from one season to the next. Born in Choestoe, the Land of Dancing Rabbits in the language of the Cherokee, he attended Young Harris College and, later, taught here. In his four published volumes of poems, he includes mountain ballads and superb sonnets, short lyrics and poems of deep philosophical insight. It is the spirit of Byron Reece that hovers over *The Reach of Song* from start to finish. As introduction to one collection of his work Reece wrote: "From Chips and Shards / In idle times / I made these poems / Shaped these rhymes / May they engage some friendly tongue / When I am past the Reach of Song." So this performance is now that "friendly tongue," and more.



1917-1958

comments by Dr. Bettie Sellers.

Bettie Sellers has both lectured and written about Reece. Her book "The Bitter Berry ... A Biography with Poetry" is on sale in our lobby bookstore. Dr. Sellers recently retired as Goolsby Professor of English at Young Harris College and was Poet Laureate Emeritus of the State of Georgia



Recently Republished

BALLAD OF THE BONES

a collection of poetry

by Byron Herbert Reece.

Published originally in 1943, this book of poetry catapulted Reece to national recognition and 1943 winner of the "Best Poem of the Year" award from "American Poet" magazine.

THE SEASON OF FLESH

Another inspiring collection of ballads and poetry by Reece originally published in 1955.

Out of circulation for some time these highly popular books are now again available in our Lobby Book Store.

MORE ON REECE -Available in the Lobby Book Store

Books by Reece

Better a Dinner of Herbs - A Novel by Reece

A lyrical tale of passion and revenge in the rural South

The Hawk and The Sun - A Novel by Reece

The story of one day in the life of Dandelion, a physically impaired man who is the sole black resident in the town of Tilden.

Books about Reece

Mountain Singer by Raymond A. Cook.

A Biography with Poetry on Byron Herbert Reece

The Bitter Berry by Bettie Sellers...A Biography with Poetry on Byron Herbert Reece.

The Far Blue Mountains

by Philip Albert

Music and Lyrics by Sharon Albert

At the peak of high summer, just months before our country becomes involved in the largest military conflict in history, a young woman chooses to leave the safe familiarity of her big city home for life in the remote Southern Appalachian Mountains.

The people she meets, what she learns from them and teaches to them and how they overcome the differences between them is the central theme to this drama.

The old mountain ways, tall tales, widder women healing, fiddle playing and buck dancing, all stand up well under the critical eyes of a modern, big-city educated woman.

In the end Rita proves to herself the worth of both the old ways and the new, and learns that the unique mountain character of her community is something worth savoring.



MUSIC - *The Far Blue Mountains*

Act I

I Hope She Still Likes Me
What Am I Doing Here?
The Far Blue Mountains
The Far Blue Mountains-Reprise
Big City Lights



Act II

There Before the Grace
Christmas Without You
Mae's Lullaby
I Hope She Still Likes Me-Reprise
For Elizabeth



All underscoring & incidental music arranged by J.D. Robinson

Artistic Staff *The Far Blue Mountains*

Playwright Philip Albert
Artistic Director Sharon Albert
Musical Director Victoria Lee
Lighting Designer Philip Albert
Vocal Arrangements Stephen Gamba
Musical Arrangements J.D. Robinson & Wayde Powell

Production Staff

Production Stage Manager Philip Albert
Assistant to the Stage Manager George Ramsey
Assistant to the Stage Manager Miranda Pritchard
Assistant to the Stage Manager T. Allen Thomas

Cast

Michael Blackmon Cecil
Nathan Patterson Jason
Courtney Cunningham Mae
T. Allen Thomas Samuel
Adriane Howeward Lucille
K. Ken Johnston Karl
Crystal Waters Ester
J.D. Robinson Verdie
Larry Tobias Tyree
George Ramsey Hershel
Miranda Pritchard Leota
Janice Minette Rita

The 2003 *Far Blue Mountains* Band

J.D. Robinson Fiddle, Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo
Larry Tobias Bass, Guitar, Piano
Micah "Magic Spoons" Robinson Percussion

Other Credits

Historical articles about mountain culture are the collaborative effort of husband and wife team Jim and Roxanne Powell.

Production Staff and Cast

2003 Season



TOM DeTITTA
Playwright

Tom DeTitta has been telling the stories of people since he stuck his thumb out near Chapel Hill, NC, and hitchhiked across the United States.

The first result of his travels was his novel *I Think I'll Drop you Off in Deadwood*. He next spent three years researching *The Reach of Song*, his first historic play.

He has been commissioned to work with President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter on a play about the American Presidency and is working in Bulgaria teaching play writing through the development of a play that addresses the social changes of the past ten years. Habitat for Humanity has commissioned him to write a play for their 25th Anniversary.

His play *Streets of Gold* was performed in the Pittsburgh area in the fall of 2000, and his play *And Grace will Lead me Home, the American POW Drama* was performed in Americus, GA in Oct. of 1999. His recent plays include *Home Again*, and *Searching for Innocence: Phnom Penh 1996*.

A magna-cum laude graduate of Duke University, DeTitta was a 1997 recipient of the North Carolina Arts Council Fellowship in playwriting. He is now the Director of the Center for Community-Based Theatre: World Communities.



SHARON ALBERT
Artistic Director
The Reach of Song
The Far Blue Mountains

Sharon Albert returns for her fifth season with *The Reach of Song* and the third for *The Far Blue Mountains*. A resident of Hayesville, NC, Mrs. Albert is a frequent guest director for the Peacock Playhouse in Hayesville where her credits include *Absence of A Cello*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and *Nunsense*. Other credits include *Annie Get Your Gun* for Theater Young Harris, *Follow That Rabbit*, *Wizard of Oz* and *A Christmas Carol* for the Art Zone in Young Harris, GA. Performance favorites are Bernice in *The Reach of Song*, Linda in *Death of a Salesman* and Maggie in *The Shadow Box*. From 1996-1999 Mrs. Albert served as Company Artistic Director for The Aurora Theatre in Duluth, Georgia.

Sharon would like to thank the Board of Directors of The Appalachian Educational and Historical Society for their ongoing support and hard work, Dr. Tommy You, Mr. Tom Jeffrey and all of Young Harris College for giving us a place to play. But most of all, Thank you, Phil. None of us would be here without you. And last but not least, thank you to the casts and crews of *The Reach of Song* and *The Far Blue Mountains*, past and present, for always helping me find my way and get us all where we need to go. Love to Alexander, Hi to Mom.



PHILIP ALBERT
Executive Director

Welcome to the 2003 season of Southern Appalachian Stages. We hope you will enjoy this summer's productions of both the 15th season of *The Reach of Song* and the 3rd season of *The Far Blue Mountains*. The season is produced by the Appalachian Educational and Historical Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation, to fulfill its mission of preserving and presenting to the public the cultural and historic heritage of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. I ask you to support this and other projects of the Society in any way you can.

I would also ask that you take note of the advertisers in this program along with the Board of Directors of the Society and Patrons of the drama. These businesses and individuals have given generously of their time and money without which this drama could not be produced.

Even with the generous support of those people mentioned above the Society is always in need. The cost of producing this drama far exceeds the family friendly ticket prices.

If you would like to join in the support of this drama and other projects of the Society, please contact me. We can always use more heroes and heroines.

Regarding myself all I can say is that I love the performing arts, these mountains, and my wife Sharon and son Alexander. I am fortunate indeed to have what is dear to my heart in a place that is dear to my heart.



VICTORIA LEE
Musical Director
& Choreographer

Victoria is happy to be returning to the North Georgia Mountains for her third season. She has in the past appeared as both Robin and Susie Mae in *The Reach of Song* and as Leota and Mae in *The Far Blue Mountains*. A graduate of Troy State University, she is now a high school music educator in Washington County, GA. Favorite roles include Rosamund in *The Robber Bridegroom*, Kim in *Bye Bye Birdie* and Snoopy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*.



MICHAEL BLACKMON

A local resident and graduate of Murphy High School, Michael is enjoying his 1st season at *The Reach of Song* and *The Far Blue Mountains*. He spent his high school years studying music. He was a member of the Murphy High School Chorus and Showchoir. His performance venues have included The House of Blues and Navy Pier in Chicago, Carnegie Hall in New York and The Old North Church in Boston. Michael has studied percussion, electric bass, and is the recipient of the Louie Armstrong Jazz Award.



NELL TODD BROWN

Nell was raised in a log home by Zura and Alvin Todd, who had a Dahlia Farm in the Suches area of Union County. One variety developed by the Todds was a raspberry pink dahlia named "Byron Herbert Reece" after the late author whose story is told in *The Reach of Song*. From a one room school, she went on to earn a Master's in Education. She taught middle school for 21 years and is now retired. She is newly married and lives in Ellijay, GA. This is her 14th year with *The Reach of Song*.



NIKKI CARSON

Nikki Carson is an actress and has been in 8 plays, 5 at the Peacock Playhouse in Hayesville, NC. This is her 2nd season in *The Reach of Song*. She is going into high school next year. She also likes singing and riding horses.



COURTNEY CUNNINGHAM

This is Courtney's first season here and she is thrilled to be in a place where she can fulfill both her passion for theatre and the outdoors. Courtney recently graduated from Western Carolina University with a B.A. in theatre and a minor in dance. There she appeared in roles ranging from Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet* to the mute in *The Fantasticks*. She is having a wonderful time performing in the shows here and hopes you have as much fun watching as she does on stage. ENJOY!



HAZEL FARMER

Hazel has lived on the same farm in Union County for 70 years. This is her 11th year with the drama. She is an active member of Philadelphia Baptist Church and sings in the choir. She plants a small garden and does her own fall canning and freezing for winter food. Her pleasures are filled with one daughter, three grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Hazel says, "I enjoy sitting in the swing on my front porch, late in the evening watching the cattle and the deer grazing in the pasture or just watching a beautiful sunset."



ADRIANE HOWARD

Adriane Howard is glad to be joining this cast for her first season. She is a student at Western Carolina University and will be graduating in December with degrees in Electronic Media and Theatre Arts. In addition to acting, singing, and dancing since the age of 4, Adriane is also a stage manager and costumer. Her favorite performances include *The Sound of Music*, *Titanic: the Musical*, and *Anton in Showbusiness*.



K. KEN JOHNSTON

K. Ken, making his second appearance as Reece, has performed on stage, film and television in the U.S., Canada, and Europe in such diverse areas as Shakespeare, children's theatre, full-contact jousts, rock'n'roll circus, sketch/improvisational comedy, story telling and living history. It all pales before the beauty of Mr. Reece's poetry. This is for my family, especially my Samantha.



FURMAN LUNS福德

I started playing the guitar when I was around 13 years old. Later on I won a talent show and was on TV. I then started singing and playing in church. I have performed at the festival of traditional music at Berea Kentucky, and I perform at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC. Six years ago I joined Roberta Voyles who plays the old time banjo and we play and sing in local churches, festivals, nursing homes and many other places. We enjoy doing old time gospel and traditional music. This is his 9th year with *The Reach of Song*.



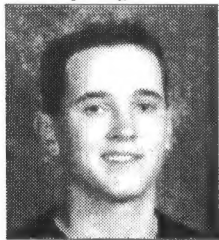
ELSIE HUGHES NELSON

Elsie grew up about a mile up the road and sang her first solo at the "little white church on the hill." She was active in music and drama during her growing up years in Towns County. Returning for her 11th season, Elsie is proud to be a part of *The Reach of Song* cast and family. Now residing in Gainesville, she has sung with the Gainesville Chorale for 25 years and is active in her church and community.



ROBERTA VOYLES LUNS福德

Roberta grew up in Marble, NC. She started performing at school with her brother at the age of 9. She has won several banjo contests. She has performed at Berea Kentucky's Celebration of Traditional Music, at Cades Cove, TN Old Timers Day, Gold Festival at Coker Creek, TN, Old Timers Day in Brevard, NC, at John C. Campbell Folk School Concerts and Festivals. What she likes most of all is her churches. The mother of 3 and the grandmother of 4, this is her 9th season in *The Reach of Song*.



NATHANIEL PATTERSON

Nathaniel Patterson is 15 years old and is from Atlanta, GA. Prior to living in Atlanta he lived in Connecticut and New Jersey. Nathaniel's favorite role was Philsbury in *Rumplestiltskin* at Kudzu Playhouse. Other favorite roles include Tom Sawyer in *Tom Sawyer* and Hank in *Marvin's Room*. He has also been featured in an Atlanta Film Festival Commercial. Nathaniel hopes to attend the Boston Conservatory to major in musical theater.



JOYCE McMANIOUS

Home for Joyce McManious is a log house in the Dial Valley where she is a homemaker and indulges her passion for hiking the mountain trails of north Georgia and storytelling. The mother of two and grandmother of three, this is her eleventh season as a part of the cast of *The Reach of Song*. She is pleased to be playing the part of Emma Reece for the 10th year.



MIRANDA PRITCHARD

Miranda Pritchard is joining Southern Appalachian Stages for her first season. She is a theatre student at Western Carolina University working towards a BFA concentrated in acting. A few of her favorite past roles include Hernia in *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*, Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and the Witch in *Into the Woods*.



JANICE MINETTE

Janice made her acting debut in the N. Ga. Mtns. last year at the Peacock Playhouse, Hayesville, NC as Blanche Cooke in *Night Watch*. She appeared in three more shows there as the nun ballerina in *Nunsense*, Sedona Ware in *Blind Hogs & Occasional Acorns* and as Celia Pilgrim in *Absence of A Cello*. This is Janice's 1st season with Southern Appalachian Stages as Rita in *The Far Blue Mountains*, and scholar/ensemble in *The Reach of Song*. She resides in Hiawassee, GA.



GEORGE RAMSEY

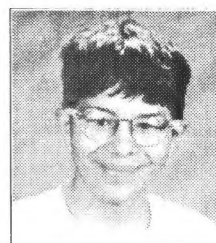
George Ramsey was born and raised in Murphy, NC where he has encountered many of this regions characters on a first hand basis. George has been involved in a wide variety of theatrical endeavors. From the stage of the Peacock Playhouse with the Licklog Players in one of his favorite roles as the Lion in the *Wizard of Oz*, to the stage of the Brasstown Valley Resort with Cornerstone Theatre Inc, as the Big Bad Wolf in *Into the Woods*. George also attends the First Baptist Church, Murphy, where he sings in the choir and serves in children's ministry.



***J.D. ROBINSON**

As the result of a mis-spent youth and many one nighters on the road, J.D. has run aground in Brasstown, NC, where he plays some, teaches a little and gigs wherever income exceeds expenses (mostly). J.D. offers 2 small bits of philosophy: "If ever someone offers you a breath mint, please take it!" and, "If ever someone gives you a hug, let them stop hugging first!"

*Continuing Member of the Original Production



MICAH ROBINSON

Micah Robinson, AKA "Magic Spoons," is a resident of Warne, NC and is returning to *The Reach of Song* for his fourth year. In addition to playing spoons, Micah enjoys volunteering his time at the Moss Memorial Library in Hayesville, contra and square dancing, computers, and working on his novel *The Tedstory*. He is very pleased to be joining the company again this year.



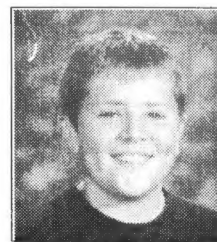
T. ALLEN THOMAS

This is Allen's first appearance with Southern Appalachian Stages. A veteran performer, favorite roles include the Emcee in *Cabaret*, the Baker in *Into the Woods*, Archibald in *The Secret Garden*, Bernard in *Death of a Salesman*, Gregor Vassy in *Chess*, and Charlie Brown in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Allen spends his life off stage as an impressionistic painter. He thanks his family and friends for their love and support.



LARRY TOBIAS

Mister Tobias received his training at the NC School of the Arts and is a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University. Recently returned from the 2002 national tour of *Big River*, Larry has worked in New York City with the York Theatre, UVU Rep, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Regionally, Mr. Tobias has appeared with the Theatre at Limekiln, Richmond Shakespeare Festival, Charlotte Repertory Theatre and Cape Fear Regional Theatre. Film & TV credits: *The Angel Doll*, *Donnie Brasco*, *Private Parts*, *NY Undercover*, *Ding-A-Ling-Less*.



ALEX WALTERS

Alex Walters, 13, is a rising 8th grade honor student at Hayesville Middle School. He has performed in numerous shows at the Peacock Playhouse, including lead roles in *Oliver* and *The Sound of Music*. His other interests include playing the tuba and guitar, soccer and golf.



CRYSTAL WATERS

Crystal is thrilled to be making her debut at Southern Appalachian Stages. She is a recent graduate of Western Carolina University, where she majored in Music Industry and Vocal Performance with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Crystal is a native of North Carolina and has been working in professional theatre and film throughout the southeast over the past four years. Some of her favorite roles include Carolyn in *Sinners*, Louisa in *The Fantasticks*, Elmire in *Tartuffe*, and the Witch in *Hansel and Gretel*. Thanks to her family, friends and God for their love and support.



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The Quilting Bee

"Them women spending all day over there at the quilting bee. Making nothing but mean gossip, maybe a quilt or two on the side." (Zack, act one, scene one, 1992 Production of The Reach of Song.)

Quilts were not only a piece of art for the hardy women folk of Scotch/Irish heritage who settled in the hills of Appalachia; quilts were a practical necessity for keeping the family warm against the harsh winter cold in rough housing where snow often blew in through the cracks and the floor was earthen.

The only luxury these women allowed themselves was making the quilt pretty through patterns handed down for generations and shared among themselves.

Quilts were a way of recycling pieces of clothing that had served long and well, but were beyond mending further. Wedding dresses, shirt pieces, and any scrap of leftover fabric found their final showcase in quilts.

Once a quilt "top" was pieced,

binding the top with a sandwiched layer of batting and a lining on the back side by quilting, or sewing them together, was a big job for one person, so often a "quilting bee" was formed.

Quilting bees were festive occasions for women who often struggled with heavy household duties without a visit from another of their gender for many months.

Appalachian women, like an invisible sisterhood, bonded together to help each other through any struggles they might face: pregnancy, childbirth, sickness, or caring for a new husband. The informal camaraderie of a quilting bee was a good place for young girls to learn what they would face as women, and it was good social therapy for the older ones.



The Importance of Church & Religion

The old-time mountain "fire and brimstone" preachers, with their pulpit-pounding and loud, forceful preaching under the hot, uninsulated roofs of the old meeting houses, could make the fires of hell come alive to the listening audience.

When revival time came, invariable in the hot summers when it was hot enough to make the pine sap drip from the beams in the pine church ceilings, everyone went to revival meetin'. There was no excuse for missing a meeting except very grave illness. Anyone who did not go to revival was considered a confirmed sinner or atheist.

The mountaineer believed the same doctrines as his parents and grandparents had. God's will came first and all else came afterward. God was not a concept to leave in the church on Sunday; God went with the mountaineer through every day of the week (even if he did take a nip of "shine" once in a while). God was with him out in the fields, and God was there at the end of a hard day of plowing when he came home to rest on the front porch and watch the night come. He might not always understand God's will in his life, but he accepted it regardless.

Church was also the center for



Decoration Day

Religion and politics – not always a good mix!

some of the best times in the community. Homecoming, decoration day and dinner on the ground were times when all those who had moved away from the home community came back for the day or weekend. They arrived by the carload from the cities to bunk in with relatives who were happy to extend hospitality, exchange news and take a look at folks they'd not seen for a year or more. The dead were not forgotten either. The graves were cleared of overgrowth, and old flowers were replaced with fresh ones.

That Sunday, the church picnic tables groaned under the weight of enough country-style banana puddings, deviled eggs, cornbread, fried chicken, green beans and good home cooking to feast the eyes, let alone fill the stomach. Even those who were not particularly enthusiastic churchgoers went to this day of services, lining up to pile their plates high with good home cooking of the congregation's ladies.

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Reece explains photosynthesis
or
“why grass is green”

Decoration Day
&
Dinner on the Grounds



Harry &
Zack
in trouble
again.



Opening Dance *Old Joe Clark*



Religion and Politics don't mix!

Thank You Young Harris College

*A very special thanks to the Young Harris College Board, Dr. Thomas S. Yow, II, president of Young Harris College and the Young Harris College staff for making it possible for us to present this 2001 production of *The Reach of Song* and *The Far Blue Mountains*.*

The opportunity to use this fine campus and its facilities and your generous donation of time and energies is greatly appreciated.

The Appalachian Educational and Historical Society, Inc.
Executive Board

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

Where Teaching Comes First!

Our teachers have one primary responsibility—teaching our students.

Photo:
YHC faculty members Victor Morris, BYRON HERBERT REECE, and William Fox prepare for a choral performance of "Adoration," which is based on poems in Mr. Reece's book "Bow Down in Jericho." (1955-56 - courtesy of YHC)

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE
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MOUNTAIN MUSIC

"Now the thing about an ole-timey mountain music that makes it different from most types of music is that the only way you can learn one of these songs is by listening to somebody else play it. Usually what would happen was a fella who wants to learn a tune goes over to some other fella's house and they get together and play..."

(James Farist, act one, scene one, 1991 Production of *The Reach of Song*)

Music, whether it was the religious music he sang in church, or the Saturday night hoe-down style, came naturally to the musically-talented mountaineer. He often crafted his own instruments, then taught himself to play by ear because he couldn't read music (or wouldn't have had the sheet music if he could have read it).

Singing schools were set up by itinerant singing masters who used a method called "shape notes" to help their semi-literate pupils to learn to sight-read music.

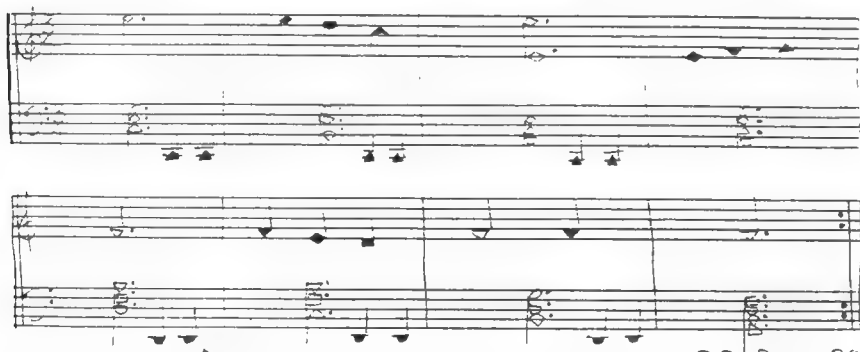
The original shape note music, dating back to Elizabethan England and revived in America in the early

1800's, used four basic shapes (a diamond, triangle, square and circle) to replace the round part of a written note. Once the shape was assigned a pitch relative to the scale, singers were able to quickly grasp sight-reading of music. In 1832, shape notes were expanded to include seven shapes to take in the more familiar seven note scale (do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do).

Today, except for some gospel music, shape music is almost forgotten.

The following piece of original music from *The Reach of Song* was written by the drama's first music director, Phillip DePoy.

REECE THEME



© P. DePoy, 1989



Musical instruments were the main source of entertainment before electric radios.

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Appalachia Today

Today's Appalachia retains much of its natural beauty, though its population is growing and homes are dotting more of the hills and valleys.

Its young people have been forced to leave for the cities to find work, and many will spend their entire working lives elsewhere, returning only in retirement.

Many of the picturesque old barns have fallen in, and much of the handcraft culture has died out, preserved by only a few dedicated craftsmen. Yet, there can still be heard the twang of the colorful language of the native people, folks still love a fiddlin' hoedown on a Saturday night, and many hills and hollows still boast country churches where folks gather to worship on Sunday.

As awareness spreads about the special culture of this region, some of that culture is being revived and preserved through efforts like *The Reach of Song* - so that those who never knew the culture can learn of it; and those who grew up with the culture can enjoy it again.

The mountain people have, for many years had to venture from home for a glimpse of the outside world. Today, the outside world comes to them - for a look at life the way it used to be, and maybe, sometimes, the way it ought to be again.

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*The Reach of Song is funded in part
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WORLD WAR II PHOTOS



Staff Sgt. J.G. Gregory
 U.S. Army Air Force W.W. II
 Killed in action Dec. 24, 1944 in Germany

The World War II soldier photos projected on the screen during the play are actual photos of local young men who served their country. The photos are contributed from a collection which is usually on display in Friendship Church near Hiawassee. Use of the servicemen photos from the era were the idea of local resident Joyce Holmes. She brought them to one of the first *The Reach of Song* workshops because, having read the script, she thought they'd fit in. At least two of these young men died in the war.

**CHIROPRACTIC IS NOT JUST
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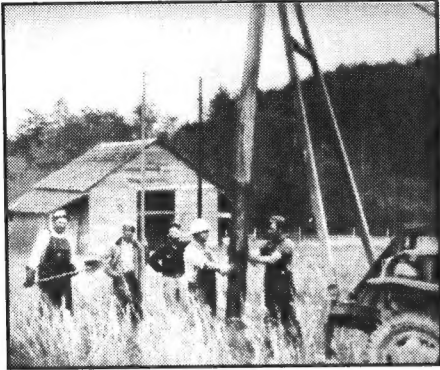


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The Coming Of TVA



In 1937, under the directive of Congress to improve navigation and control flooding in the Tennessee Valley, the TVA began building a number of dams in the area to hold back the pure mountain creek water that had flowed out of the earth for millions of years.

Mountain farmers living in the creek bottomlands were distressed to learn that TVA intended to flood the lowest-lying areas, which meant the loss of some of the area's best and most fertile farmlands.

Some folks refused to leave their family farms until the last minute when the lake waters began to cover their old homesplaces where generations of their families had been born and raised. Even their family graveyards had been uprooted and moved.

But other mountaineers, while sympathizing with their neighbors' losses, were happy to know that soon TVA would bring cheap plentiful electric power into their homes. Before TVA, only a few homes in small areas near river plants had electricity part-time which was often turned off after a certain hour. But TVA brought power into the reach of every man, rich or poor, near town or in the deepest mountain hollow.

The Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation was formed in 1938 from a local Rural Electrification Administration cooperative, made up of about

150 area citizens. This group helped with education, wiring of homes and even helped with group purchases of electric appliances.

Now, instead of having to go out to the spring house at the branch for milk and butter, all the family had to do was reach in the refrigerator. Instead of boiling clothes in the washpot, the lucky mountain woman could let the wringer-washer do the work. No need to light the old kerosene lamp at night or go to bed early. Electric lights stood ready at the flip of a switch.

Of course, the new electricity also meant there was a monthly bill to pay where there had been none before, and there were the new appliances to pay for. The mountaineer would have to find some other way of making a living than merely subsisting off the land. Still, the construction of the lakes brought a financial windfall for some while the work lasted. Jobs clearing the lake bottoms, building new roads, bridges and constructing dams brought real cash income to many families as the Depression ebbed away.

In the December 12, 1941 issue of the Towns County Herald, the story "United States Declares War on Japan" ran on the bottom half of page one, eclipsed by the top-page, four-photo story on progress of the new Chatuge Dam.

The Chatuge Dam is a unique rolled earthen dam on the Hiwassee River. The project was begun in July of 1941 and began to fill in February of 1947. The total area purchased by TVA for the project was 11,462 acres for the price of \$935,853. At full pool the lakes covers approximately 7,200 acres. A 10,000-kw power generating system was added in December of 1954.



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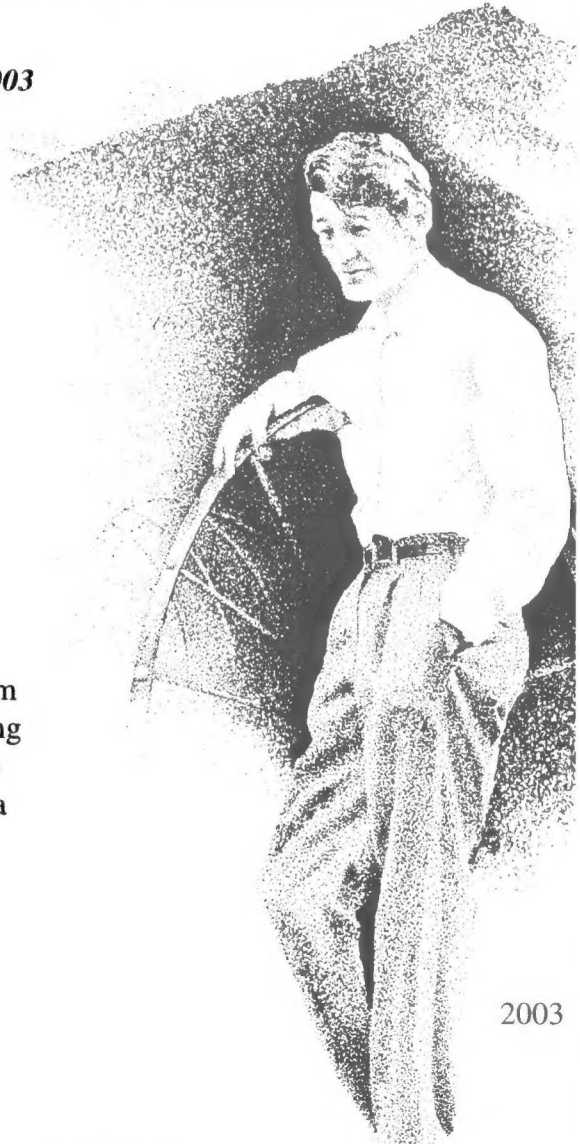
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